

Standish Town Hall

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Town Council Meeting Minutes 1/14/2014

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
STANDISH, MAINE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 p.m. by Chair Blanck and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Blanck, Olson, Pomerleau, Sargent, Stack and Thompson.
Councilor Spencer was excused.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (S)

The minutes from the December 10th and 17th meetings were approved by unanimous consent.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no petitions or communications at this meeting.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Gordon Billington spoke on the following items:

- Last Thursday he received a phone call alerting him that a main line in the sprinkler system let go and flooded a portion of the town offices. The damages will be covered by insurance.
- The Fire Department's run calls are up this year.
- The Public Works Department has done a great job keeping the roads clear during the recent storms. During the ice storm last Saturday two of the town's trucks went off the road.
- This week the town has had on loan from GPCOG an all-electric vehicle for test-driving. He noted that it is a marvelous vehicle and a glimpse into the future. Since test-driving this vehicle his perception of all-electric vehicles has changed. The town did install a power station for charging that can be used to charge this type of vehicle. It was his opinion that the only drawback to the vehicle was the relatively short driving range on a full charge. Many of the town staff have had the opportunity to test-drive the vehicle.

Mr. Billington introduced Roger Mosely the Director of Public Works to provide this month's Department Head Report.

Roger Mosley showed a PowerPoint presentation showing the improvements that are being made to the Public Works Garage. The voters approved the funding, contractors and Public Works staff have done the work.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

117-13 Amendment to Standish Town Code, Chapter 263, Vehicles and Traffic, add Section 263-7, Temporary Closures [Pomerleau]

After a Public Hearing without Public or Council comment the Council voted on the amendment and the hearing was closed.

A copy of the amendment is available at the Town Clerk's Office and on the town's web site.

VOTE: 6 Yeas

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Thompson explained that the Beach Committee will meet tomorrow.

Councilor Olson said that the Economic Development Committee has been meeting with the Standish Economic Development Business Group. They last met on January 8 and continue discussing issues where the businesses can support economic development in town. The standing committee will not meet on January 20, the next meeting will be in February.

Councilor Olson noted that the Steep Falls Planning Group will meet on January 16 at the Town Hall to continue to work on the plan.

Councilor Pomerleau questioned the location of the meeting.

Councilor Olson explained that they held one meeting in Steep Falls, but the rest of the meetings will be held here at the Town Hall.

Councilor Sargent noted there are some openings that will be announced later in the meeting.

Councilor Sargent explained that the Finance Committee met yesterday, the town's finances are in good order, and in fact there has been an increase in building permits.

Councilor Pomerleau said that Capital Improvements Committee met, he however, didn't attend the meeting, but announced that they had discussed the 10-year plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

99-13 Order of the Discontinuance of a Road – A Portion of Emery Road (Postponed at the 11/12/13 meeting for six months) [Blanck]

This item remained on the table.

119-13 Award Bid for and Contract for Consultation Services Regarding Withdrawal from MSAD #6 (Postponed at the 11/12/13 meeting to allow the manager to obtain additional information) [Blanck]

Moved by Olson seconded by Stack to take the item off the table.

Councilor Olson said that the process tonight was wonderful, she was thrilled that so many citizens came to speak. She said that they let their feelings be known that they are not interested in exploring the matter at this time.

Councilor Stack called for a point of order noting that they had not yet voted to take the item off the table.

Moved by Olson seconded by Stack and voted to take the item off the table. (Unanimous)

Gordon Billington said that what he wanted to acknowledge was that there is solid support for SAD 6. He said that he was gratified to hear that, although he didn't agree with the outcome of the vote, he certainly supported their decision.

NEW BUSINESS

1-14 Authorize the Rotary Club of Sebago Lake to Utilize Sebago Lake Station Landing Parking Area for their Annual Ice Fishing Derby [Blanck]

Chair Blanck announced that National Geographic will be sending photographers to cover this event.

VOTE: 6 Yeas

2-14 Approve Warrant for Special Town Meeting to be Held on February 11, 2014 Regarding Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District #1 [Blanck]

At the request of the Chair the Clerk read the warrant aloud.

Daniel Kasprzyk voiced his concerns that the Special Town Meeting immediately followed the public hearing on this matter, which from his prospective didn't allow time for the information to be processed by the public. He went on to say that he thought that the town would want to have a number of hearings on this matter since its adoption would have a bearing on the town for a number of years.

The consensus of the Council was to hold an informational hearing on the matter at their January 28 workshop. Town Manager, Gordon Billington asked Mr. Kasprzyk if this change this would satisfy him regarding the hearing procedure.

Mr. Kasprzyk said that he would prefer multiple hearings to get the word out, like town does for ordinance adoption.

Mr. Billington recounted that the Council has already discussed at length the TIF at a broadcast meeting which was facilitated by a representative from the Department of Economic Development. He said that meeting along with the upcoming workshop and public hearing is very good outreach to the public.

Mr. Kasprzyk said that TIF meeting was in September 2013, he said he was the only member of the public at that meeting, and the meeting scheduled time changed at the last minute.

Mr. Billington said that the meeting was televised, he was certain that many residents were able to watch it at that time.

Pam Slattery-Thomas said that she was here tonight because she wanted to learn about the TIF and she suggested that layman's language be used in advertising so it's understandable.

Councilor Tompson noted if a resident was confused or didn't understand something that they see on the website they should call the Town Hall for clarification.

Pam Slattery-Thomas said that not everyone has access to cable television or the computer. She suggested that newspapers be used to get the word out about the TIF.

Councilor Sargent said her thoughts are well taken, perhaps we can do an ad regarding the workshop meeting.

VOTE: 6 Yeas

3-14 Call for Public Hearing Regarding Standish Corner Tax Increment Financing District #1 [Blanck]

Daniel Kasprzyk asked where this past meeting was noticed.

The Clerk explained that the notice requirement for town meetings or special town meeting is the posting of the warrant. The Clerk noted that the warrants were posted at the Standish Post office, Steep Falls Post Office, Town Office and Patches Store on Route 35; in addition it was posted on the town website home page.

Gordon Billington went on to explain public hearing notices are run in the Portland News Papers, according to our legal counsel that publication meets state requirements.

Chair Blank noted that there were newspaper articles and ads that were placed by others regarding the meeting so although that's not us advertising, there was plenty of information regarding it in the media.

VOTE: 6 Yeas

PUBLIC ITEMS

Daniel Kasprzyk publicly thanked Roger Mosley for the great job the Public Works Department did on the plowing of our roads during the recent storm. He noted the School Board is holding a Finance Committee meeting on January 16 at starting at 2 pm at Central Office. He invited all to attend this meeting.

Chair Blanck asked if they could speak.

Daniel Kasprzyk said that he would email the Chair of the Committee to let her know of their request to speak. He went on to explain that the regular School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday. He said that he didn't have control of how the School Board meeting are run, but he heard that same comment made from others tonight during the Special Town Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several upcoming meetings were announced.

The Clerk announced board/committee openings and that applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilor Stack cited a recent open letter to Standish residents that ran in the Lakes Region paper sent in by Elizabeth D. Perry of Standish. The letter stated that years ago the Council voted to build an addition to the Town Hall. She noted that the Council said that the expansion was needed so that better services could be delivered, but in reality they were the ones that benefited.

Councilor Stack said that those statements are incredulous, she might want to talk to Catherine's Cupboard, the Sno-seekers, the bridge club or other groups that use the facilities here.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was not needed at this meeting.

ADJOURN

Move by Sargent seconded by Olson and voted to vote to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Submitted by: _____

Clerk/Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS